



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners- Paul Raia, Cynthia DeAngelis, Grace Carpenter, Michael Rademacher, Paul Parravano, Kerrie Fallon, Liza Molina, Karen Mathiasen

Guests: Jillian Harvey, DEI Director; Janice Cagan-Teuber, Volunteer; Cathy Slesnick, Community Member; Eithna Sweeney, Community Member; Anna Henkin, Community Member; Kari Sasportas, Community Member/RC Commissioner; Sarah Forster, Community Member; Noel Dyer, Community Member; Dave Philbin, Community Member; Jenni Acosta, Program Director – Understanding Our Differences

Meeting called to order by Harvey at 4:03 PM

1. Call to Order, Read Ground Rules, Welcome (Mike R, 5 min)
 - a. Introduce commission applicants, and other community members
2. Approve July Meeting Minutes (Mike R, 5 min)

- a. Parravano moved to accept, DeAngelis seconded, role call vote at the end of meeting
- 3. Youth Disability Rights Programming (Anna Henkin, 10 min)
 - a. Youth disability rights educational programming; growing up felt a lot of bias in classes, and knowledge of youth rights and what accommodations are available
 - b. Would be useful to put together education programming around rights as students with disabilities- for middle and high school and how to
 - c. DeAngelis- would be happy to work with her on this, based on her background
 - d. Harvey- this is opportunity to use a working group small group to work with Anna on drafting a proposal or project that we can then lay out
 - e. Carpenter asked if there is a group that already might be doing this; DeAngelis spoke about SEPAC, DESI- is there training for kids or a club, or education for kids with disabilities
 - f. Raia - this is a great idea, as someone who was disabled in APS, students didn't understand his sight problem
 - g. Cynthia DeAngelis, Cathy Slesnick, Paul Raia, Eithna Sweeney- want to work on this project. Harvey will connect with Anna Henkin and offer support for group to get set up
- 4. Understanding Our Differences Program (Jenni Acosta, 25 min)
 - a. Nonprofit, founded by parents, www.understandingourdifferences.org
 - b. Program director presented PowerPoint presentation; will send slides to distribute to the Commission
 - c. DeAngelis – when pilot was done at Dalin, how long and follow up? Jenni Acosta responded that program was done at Dallin and Bishop- 1hr long live presentation; pre-web is designed to do with teachers before and post is for after
 - i. Separated units by grade level
 - ii. DeAngelis is not a fan of one shop deals- what's the follow up?? Who funded the program at Dallin and Bishop? It was funded by the PTO's and Bishop's principal's fund; are there plans to get this in other schools
 - iii. Price per grade per school- 400 per unit, 200 per additional school
 - 1. Every speaker also gets a \$75 honorarium
 - iv. How successful was it?
 - v. Because remote hybrid-can do 3 schools at a time
 - vi. How can commission be helpful- Sarah Forster- funding isn't necessarily the issue, it's more so barrier of carving out the time to build this up to be consistent, and 3 times a year, it takes up

classroom time; needs to be done slower to gain teacher buy in- and overall leadership point person to coordinate across schools

1. Need visibility as a program, so folks can learn about it and gain support of principals
 - vii. Eithna -from teachers point of view, "it's one more thing we have to do", has it been something after school, or community based?
 - viii. Prefer local presenters, or others who have done before
 - ix. Ileana- ways commission can be of support- school system is lacking inclusion for higher needs children, presented within the school system; cognitive and communicative disabilities is also included- yes?
 - d. Jill proposed to have commission host a presentation with audience of - school leadership, administration, school committee, etc. so they can see what it is and impact and go from there to get on board
 - e. Raia wants to know more about outcome measures?
 - i. Jenni Acosta- Newton is a full inclusion district, will have better data at end of this year
 - f. Parravano- not school committee as audience, but more so administrators; guidance counselors- are they supportive or could be avenue to gain support?
 - g. Cynthia- Key stakeholders-SEPAC, administrators
 - h. Rademacher inquired if the discussion should be continued at next meeting or make a working group – Harvey will email Paul R, Cynthia, Cathy, Anna, Jenni, Sarah to meet w/ Jill or Christina present, and discuss action steps of what to do
5. Recommendations for Open-Space Recreation Plan (15 min)
- a. Where has the Town done a good job at making recreational and open space opportunities more inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities?
 - b. Are there participation barriers for people with disabilities in programming offered by the Recreation Department or at open space areas? What are some ways to overcome these barriers?
 - c. What areas and/or amenities at these places should be prioritized to increase accessibility?
 - d. What are some new and innovative ideas the Town should consider at recreation and open space areas to make them more inclusive for people with disabilities?
 - e. Carpenter completed the survey, there is no programming from the rec department especially for kids, many surrounding towns have something; but felt that was significantly lacking

- f. Raia/Rademacher- suggested that play structures need to be accessible,
 - g. Harvey -Action to send out these 4 questions, and the survey link in a google form for the commission to complete by next week. Then send to Krista
 - i. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ArlingtonOSRP>
- 6. Vote - Chair & Vice-Chair Position (Jill, 25 min)
 - a. Raia will volunteer as vice chair is no one else volunteers
 - b. Parravano is concerned for his availability with time constraints with MIT going back - but interested in running meetings
 - c. Carpenter volunteered to be the Chair, but requested support.
 - d. DeAngelis wants to have a rolling chair in which each commissioner would run a meeting throughout the year
 - e. Mathiasen is happy to continue her work as secretary.
 - f. DeAngelis motioned to elect Raia and Parravano as vice-chairs, and elect Carpenter as Chair, Fallon seconded
 - g. Harvey will have a meeting with co-chairs next week to provide support and answer any questions surrounding being co-chairs
- 7. Budget Update & Discussion (Jill, 5 min)
 - a. We need to use October or November to discuss projects/programs and what we want to fund
- 8. Resource List (Grace, 15 min)
 - a. A few areas of concern- dial a ride and links snow shoveling, not for those under 60; Fallon suggested Boy Scouts; Carpenter already contacted Boy Scouts, they can't organize on an ongoing basis, but could volunteer to complete hours of community serve
 - b. Raia inquired if this is a program we can create
 - c. Kari S- consider adding a few categories- Employment as one, mass rehabilitation , work without limits- career fairs, Jewish Vocational Services, Mass Commission Against Discrimination; Emergency Preparedness- national prepared month, planning resources, CERT program, MRC- we do have; Boston Center for Independence
 - d. DeAngelis inquired if AHS has community hours
 - e. Harvey will connect Carpenter and Kari S to get resources, request from Grace folks to look at it and proofread and let her know if there are changes needed.
- 9. DEI Updates (Jill, 5 min)
 - a. Article 20 of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting established the Remote Participation Study Committee (RPSC),Harvey shared out the copy of Article 20.The Disability Committee has an appointee to the RPSC and DC needs to elect someone as representative to serve on the RPSC.

- i. Committee is charged with examining options and requirements for providing remote participation through video-conferencing or other similar technology in public meetings. The first meeting is scheduled for September 29th, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.
 - ii. Cagan-Teuber will be delegate
 - b. Reprecincting forum which is taking place tonight at 7pm. Please attend or review the fact sheet and provide feedback on [the Elections page of the town website](#). The DEI division, Town Clerk and Senior Planner from Planning Dept. and GIS have been working over the last month to layout some potential alternative maps with updated precinct boundaries based on not just population changes but also data that includes, race, age, housing, renters versus homeownership, and income.
 - c. Harvey spoke with Christopher of True Story Theater last week and True Story is interested in working with the Disability Commission in 2022. They have grants from the Cultural Council to do partnerships and programming within the community. They are specifically interested in doing a bystander training with the commission, and a separate performance open that the commission would give input on the topic. If Commission would like to partner with True Story Theater, a letter of support will need to be written and submitted, and we would aim to provide some financial support- a few hundred.
 - i. Parravano inquired about requirements for the letter, Harvey added just that it supports the partnership and collaboration and two programs
 - ii. Commission voted to support partnership with True Story Theater
 - d. Please complete the updated ethics training if you haven't yet, that Christina sent out and I sent a reminder for. Ethics Training needs to be completed by September 29th.
 - e. On November 9th The Matthew Shepard Foundation will be doing training with the Arlington Police Department. The training and presentations will cover hate crimes versus hate incidents, the 1st amendment, and hate crime data. Police officers will be in training that morning, and then an afternoon session is available for some community members. At this time I am working with Chief Flaherty on the invites for community members as it is limited to 40 people because of Covid. We will be in touch about commission delegates and opportunities to give spots to other residents as we are hoping to have a diverse group present.
10. Committee Updates
- a. DeAngelis Police Chief's Advisory Board
 - i. 17 car break ins, unlocked cars

- ii. Scams are elevated-via telephone, email, mailings
- iii. Lots of trainings and overviews
- iv. 2 officers have done ABLE training, and civilian study committee is going well
- v. Is there anything APD could be doing better, or more transparent about or thoughts about how policing has changed?- Notice will be sent out
- b. Coffee shop hiring with disabilities- DeAngelis talking to folks to see if it can come to Arlington

11. Voting

- a. Motions
 - i. July meeting minutes approved.
 - ii. Carpenter elected as chair; Parravano and Raia elected as co-chairs.
 - iii. Motion passed to support and partner with True Story Theater
 - iv. Cagan-Teuber as delegate to Remote Participation Study Committee
 - v. All in favor, Molina left meeting early so abstained from voting.

12. Priorities for next meeting's agenda (Mike R, 5 min)

- a. Harvey will connect with new chairs next week
- b. Fallon will report on Civilian Review Board Study Committee
- c. All committees should give report during monthly meeting

13. Public Comment period (5 min)

- a. None